

BUCKHURST HILL
Urban District Council.

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health.

1906.

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For Year ending December 31st, 1905.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF DISTRICT :—The greater part of the district is situated on the Eastern slope of the hill. The sub-soil is principally stiff clay, with pockets of gravel scattered irregularly over the district, and a bed of gravel in the Roding valley.

The area of the district is about 850 acres, exclusive of the area covered by water, and includes some 150 acres of forest land and roads. The highest point in the district is 271 ft. above sea level, and the lowest about 45 ft.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION :—The number of empty houses, especially amongst those of the better class is in excess of last year. The houses of the working classes are on the whole in fair condition, some would certainly be greatly improved if kept in a cleaner state by the tenant. No house has had to be closed during the year as being unfit for human habitation.

No action has been taken under the “Housing of the Working Class Act” during the year.

All dwelling-houses erected in the district during the year have been built in accordance with the Council's bye-laws and under the supervision of the Council's Surveyor.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE :—The whole of the sewage of the district is water borne ; the greater part namely that from the Eastern slope of the hill is treated at the Council's sewage works on the banks of the Roding ; the remainder, namely that from the Western slope of the hill is treated at the Woodford Western Sewage Works.

The system adopted at the Council's works is the bacteriological, the resulting effluent flowing over some 14 acres of land before finally discharging in the river Roding. During the year the effluent has been periodically analysed by the county Medical Officer of Health and has always been found quite satisfactory, in fact on one occasion the effluent was stated to be purer than the river above the sewage works.

After a severe thunderstorm which occurred in June it was found necessary to relay about 400 yards of the old brick main sewer in Queen's Road and Lower Queen's Road, the old brick sewer being replaced partly by a pipe sewer and partly by a new brick sewer, the brick sewer below this portion being repointed on the inside; the whole system is now in good repair.

During the year the drains have been relaid in three houses; almost all houses in the district are now supplied with flushing tanks.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE:—House refuse is collected once a week throughout the year by public scavengers. Very few complaints, all of a trivial nature, have been received, and these in most cases arose from the fact that complainants wanted garden refuse removed as house rubbish. 2231 yards of refuse were removed during the year.

WATER SUPPLY:—The water supply is from the Metropolitan Water Board Works, and is of satisfactory quality and a constant supply; all the high levels being supplied from a deep artesian well at Waltham Abbey, and the low levels from a deep artesian well at Chingford Mill. All the houses in the district are now connected with the Board supply.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES, DAIRIES AND BAKEHOUSES—On several occasions I have made surprise visits to the slaughter houses, dairies, cowsheds, milkshops and bakehouses, and have found them in a satisfactory condition; they have also been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector as shown in his report.

NUISANCES:—Nuisances detected, with or without complaint have been few, and in all cases have been remedied, without formal notices being served.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—There has been no epidemic of infectious disease during the year. Three cases of Diphtheria, two of which were certainly imported into the district.

There were only six cases of Scarlet Fever, two of which were removed to Epping, as against eleven cases last year, six of which were removed to Epping.

On December 30th, the Waltham Joint Hospital for Infectious Diseases was formally opened, and will be ready to receive patients from this district at an early date, when cases will be sent there instead of to Epping Isolation Hospital.

Every house in which a case of infectious disease occurs is at once visited, either by the Sanitary Inspector or myself, and instructions to prevent the spread of infection are given. In cases where isolation cannot be sufficiently carried out at home, the patient is removed to the Isolation Hospital as soon as possible. The drains and sanitary arrangements are examined and notice to remedy any defect found is given.

After removal, or recovery of patient (when nursed at home), the rooms are disinfected with formalin, and the bedding, clothing, etc. is disinfected in a steam disinfecter.

In August the Council undertook to disinfect rooms, bedding and clothes after deaths from Phthisis, Medical men practising in the district being informed of their decision.

RAINFALL :—The year's rainfall in the district was as under :—

Lat. 51 deg., 37 min., 30 sec. N. Long., 0 deg., 2 min., 5 sec. E.

Diameter of Guage :—8 in.

Height above ground, 34 ft.

Height above sea level, 305 ft.

January	1·21 inches.
February	·68 „
March	... 2·69 „
April	... 1·75 „
May	... ·82 „
June	... 3·06

July	... 2·07 inches.
August	2·27 „
September	2·41 „
October	21 „
November	2·54 „
December	·68 „

Total for the year, 20. 39 inches.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE :—Although the birth rate is slightly lower and the death rate is slightly higher than that for last year, I do not consider that in such a small place, that the difference is of any significance. The birth rate is lower than the average for the last nine years, but the death rate is practically the same as the average for the last nine years.

I estimate the population as 5,050, although fourteen new houses have been built, there are more of the old ones vacant, than last year,

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS :—No defects were found or matters notified to His Majesty's Inspector of Factories.

There are no offensive trades carried on in the district.

There are no underground bakehouses in the district.

The Register of Factories and Workshops is as follows:

FACTORIES.	WORKSHOPS.	DOMESTIC WORKSHOPS.
1 Brick.	5 Builders.	4 Dressmakers.
1 Printer.	1 Stonemason.	6 Cobblers.
1 Cycle Maker.	4 Blacksmiths.	2 Tailors.
	3 Bicycle Makers.	
	1 Harness Maker.	
	1 Upholsterer.	
BAKEHOUSES.	1 Coachbuilder.	
4 Retail.	7 Dressmakers.	
	1 Tailor.	
	3 Laundries.	
	1 Shoemaker and Repairer.	

The annual summary of work done by the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector is appended, together with tables I., III., IV. and V. required by the Local Government Board, table II. not being used as there are no separate localities recognised in the district.

CHAS. R. DYKES, *Medical Officer of Health.*

Report for January and February, 1905.

So short a time has elapsed since my Annual Report that very little can be added to what has been reported. The death rate remains low and the health of the district is good. Two notifications of Scarlet Fever were received in January and one of Erysipelas in February; the rate calls for no comment.

(Signed), W. H. GIMBLETT, M.D.

TABLES OF POPULATION, BIRTH, AND OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1905 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	Average for last 9 years	1905
Population estimated to middle of each year ...	4870	4700	4700	4700	4700	4786	4900	5000	5050	4823	5050
Number of Births ...	123	107	99	107	113	114	100	113	116	110	110
Birth Rate	26·17	27·76	21·06	22·12	24·04	23·81	20·41	22·60	22·97	23·44	21·78
Deaths under 1 year of age	10	12	15	16	11	13	11	10	8	12	12
Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Births registered	81·30	112·	151·2	149·4	97·34	114·	110·	88·49	68·96	109·09	109·09
Total Deaths at all ages	64	59	50	76	63	53	58	46	53	58	63
Death Rate	13·61	12·55	10·63	16·17	13·40	11·07	11·84	9·20	10·49	12·11	12·47
Deaths in Public Insti- tutions in District ...	5	7	4	4	7	8	7	6	12	7	6
Deaths of Non-residents in Public Institutions registered in District...	4	7	4	4	0	6	2	5	11	5	5
Deaths of Residents in Public Institutions reg- istered beyond District	3	1	3	0	0	1	5	3	3	2	2
Net Deaths at all ages	63	53	49	72	63	48	61	44	45	55	60
Net Death Rate ...	13·38	11·27	10·50	15·32	13·40	10·02	12·45	8·80	8·91	11·56	11·88

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 899
 Total Population at all ages 4,786 } At last
 Number of Inhabited Houses 916 } Census.
 Average Number of Persons per House 5·22
 Lowest Level of Land in District above Ordnance Level 45·00 feet.
 Highest Level of Land in District above Ordnance Level 270 feet.
 Subsoil almost entirely clay, with pockets of gravel in higher parts, and also a bed of
 gravel in the valley, covered with alluvial soil.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1905.

Notifiable Diseases.	At all Ages.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Diphtheria*	3	1	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	3	2
Scarlet Fever*	6	3	2	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	15	4	3	2	4	2

* Four Cases removed to Epping.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1905.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	Deaths in Public Institu- tions.
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Other Tubercular Diseases	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Cancer, malignant Disease...	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Bronchitis	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Pleurisy	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Premature Birth	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart Diseases	8	—	—	—	—	5	3	1
Accidents	5	1	—	—	—	2	2	2
Senile Decay	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Diabetes Millitus	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Marasmus	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases Urinary Organs ...	4	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
Intestinal Perforation ...	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
All other causes	13	5	1	—	1	3	3	—
All causes	60	12	7	—	2	23	16	6

SUMMARY OF WORK.

Done through the SANITARY INSPECTOR in the
Urban Sanitary District of Buckhurst Hill, during
the Year ending December 31st, 1905.

Complaints received	{ ^{re} Dust Collection 2						
	{,, Other matters 24						
Nuisances detected with or without complaint	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...
Summons taken out	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cottages inspected (included in general inspections)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lodging-houses inspected (none in district)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Slaughter-houses (three in district)	...	...	...	...	...	visits	45
Bakehouses inspected (four in district)	...	...	...	...	...	,,	54
Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds (four in district)	...	...	...	...	...	,,	94
Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	,,	61
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	,,	10
Filthy Houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875	...	...	...	...	...	...
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses placed in habitable repair	...	...	...	...	...	...
Houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	...
Houses erected or re-built	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Stables erected or re-built	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sundry alterations, etc., completed	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Certificates granted	...	...	...	...	...	...
,, deferred	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	...
Houses connected with sewers (all new)	...	...	...	...	...	...
,, ,, ,, water mains (all new)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed, or existing Privies altered ; Privies and W.C.'s repaired ; W.C.'s supplied with water	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered, or water supply otherwise amended	...	...	...	...	...	...
Drains entirely relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains amended	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sundry nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Compensation paid for destruction of Infected Bedding	...	...	...	...	...	...
Seizures of unsound Meat, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plans submitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	29

The total number of visits paid with reference to nuisances, buildings in progress, to workshops, workplaces and factories, dairies and slaughter-houses, has been 765.

The house refuse is collected weekly ; 2,231 yards were collected in 1905.

(Signed) H. TOOLEY, A.R.I.B.A.,

Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.